

REMARKS

Claims 1-5, 9-14, 16 and 17 are pending herein.

By this Amendment, claims 11-13 and 15 are amended to incorporate allowable subject matter. Claim 15 has been canceled and claims 16 and 17 have been added.

No new matter is added by this Amendment. Support for the amendments to the claims is found in the original specification, claims and figures. In particular, claims 11-13 were amended to each include subject matter of allowed claims 1 and 2. Support for claim 16 is found in original claim 2. Support for claim 17 is found in original claim 2 and at, for example, Figures 16 and 17.

I. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication that claims 1-5, 9 and 10 are allowed.

II. Information Disclosure Statement

Information Disclosure Statements (IDS) were filed on March 29, 2004 and April 16, 2004. However, Applicant has not yet received copies of form PTO-1449, from either IDS, acknowledging that the disclosed references have been considered by the Examiner. To this end, as a courtesy to the Examiner, Applicant attaches hereto copies of the form PTO-1449 respectively filed with the March 29 and April 16 IDS. Applicant respectfully requires that the Examiner initial each reference as having been considered and return the executed forms.

III. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §112, First, Second and Fourth Paragraphs

Claims 11-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first, second and fourth paragraphs because it is allegedly unclear how claims 11-13 and 15 further limit the "semiconductor device" of claim 1.

The Patent Office suggested that claim 11 be written in independent form including all the limitations of claims 1 and 11; claim 12 be rewritten in independent form including the limitations of claims 1, 11 and 12; claim 13 be rewritten in independent form including the limitations of claim 1; and that claim 15 be rewritten in independent form including the limitations of claims 11, 12 and 15.

Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Patent Office in that (1) the claims are already in a format accepted by U.S. practice and (2) the suggested amendments to the claims merely results in the same claims in a different format (i.e., combines dependent claims with their already allowed respective base claim).

Nonetheless, in order to expedite allowance of this application, Applicant herein amends each of claims 11-13 and 15 as suggested by the Examiner. Accordingly, this rejection has been overcome.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are thus respectfully requested.

IV. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicant respectfully submits this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-5, 9-14, 16 and 17 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further is desirable in order to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicant's representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

Linda M. Saltiel
Registration No. 51,122

JAO:LMS/mlv

Date: June 25, 2004

Attachment:
Forms PTO-1449

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 19928
Alexandria, Virginia 22320
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

<p>DEPOSIT ACCOUNT USE AUTHORIZATION Please grant any extension necessary for entry; Charge any fee due to our Deposit Account No. 15-0461</p>
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Form PTO-1449 (REV. 8-83)		US Dept. of Commerce PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE		ATTY DOCKET NO. 111829		APPLICATION NO. 10/058,116	
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT (Use several sheets if necessary)				APPLICANT(S) Mutsumi KIMURA			
				FILING DATE January 29, 2002		GROUP 2811	
U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS							
EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUB CLASS	
		5,124,769	06/23/92	Tanaka et al.			
		5,962,897 (U.S. equivalent of CN 1041872 C)	10/05/99	Takemura et al.			
FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUB CLASS	
		JP 2002-261292 (JP equivalent of CN 1366350 A) (w/ Abstract)	9/13/02	Japan			
		1041872 C (Abstract Only)	1/27/99	China			
		1366350 A (Abstract Only)	8/28/02	China			
OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.)							
EXAMINER					DATE CONSIDERED		
Examiner: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with M.P.E.P. 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.							

Date: April 16, 2004